

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 21, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEWELL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5280.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 5280) for the relief of George W. Freeman, respectfully report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that such bill do pass.

The Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, which had the bill under consideration, made the following report, which is hereby made a part of the report of your committee:

The Committee on Military Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 5280) for the relief of George W. Freeman, respectfully report the same back to the House with the recommendation that such bill do pass.

The facts upon which this soldier relies for the relief sought by this legislation are as follows:

The soldier enlisted December 20, 1861, in Company H, Thirteenth Michigan Infantry; served faithfully until December 31, 1862, when he was captured at the battle of Stone River, Tennessee; was exchanged and returned to duty; reenlisted as a veteran January 18, 1864; was severely wounded in right hip at Bentonville, N. C., March 19, 1865, and was honorably discharged July 15, 1865, by reason of wound of right hip received in line of duty.

He was at once pensioned for his wound, but in 1867 he again enlisted in Company C, Forty-third United States Infantry, and thereby surrendered his pension. Subsequently he deserted.

Your committee, therefore, are of the opinion that the meritorious service of such soldier and his severe wound received in line of duty should condone his subsequent lapse from loyalty in time of peace.

Your committee further recommend that the bill be amended by adding as follows: "To date July twelfth, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, no back pay, bounty, or other emoluments to become due and payable by virtue of the passage of this act."

The military record of this soldier is as follows:

RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 7, 1896.

SIR: Referring to your letter of yesterday, received to-day, in which you request a statement of the military record of George W. Freeman, late of Company C, Thirteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that the name mentioned has not been found on the rolls on file in this office of Company C, Thirteenth Michigan Infantry Volunteers.

It appears from the records, however, that one George W. Freeman was enrolled December 20, 1861, at Portage, Mich., and mustered into service January 17, 1862, at Kalamazoo, Mich., as a private in Company H, of that regiment, to serve three years; that he was captured by the enemy in the battle of Stone River, December 31, 1862; that he was paroled at Murfreesboro January 3, 1863; that he reported at Detroit Barracks May 13, 1863, and was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, May 14, 1863; that he

reported at Camp Chase, Ohio, during the week ending May 16, 1863; that he was again sent from Detroit Barracks to Camp Chase, Ohio, June 24, 1863; that he reported at Camp Chase June 26, 1863; that he was arrested September 17, 1863, at Hilliard Station by the provost guard while absent from Camp Chase, Ohio; that he was sent to his regiment between October 20 and October 31, 1863; that he reenlisted as a veteran volunteer January 18, 1864; that he was promoted corporal in January or February, 1865; that he was wounded at Bentonville, N. C., March 19, 1865, and that he was discharged the service July 15, 1865, at Harper United States Army General Hospital, Detroit, Mich., because of a gunshot wound of the right hip, received while in the line of duty.

He is reported on the bimonthly muster rolls of his company as follows: March and April, 1862, and May and June, 1862, absent, sick at Savannah, Tenn., April 7, 1862; July and August, 1862, present; September and October, 1862, absent, left sick at Liberty, Ky., October 23, 1862; November and December, 1862, present; January and February, 1863, missing in action at the battle of Stone River, December 31, 1862; from May and June, 1863, to September and October, 1863, absent, officially reported missing in action; from March and April, 1864, to January and February, 1865, present; March and April, 1865, and May and June, 1865, absent, wounded at Bentonville, N. C.

Very respectfully,

F. C. AINSWORTH,

Colonel, United States Army, Chief Record and Pension Office.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, March 10, 1896.

Respectfully returned to Hon. A. Milnes, House of Representatives.

The records of this office show that Private George W. Freeman, Company H. Forty-third United States Infantry, enlisted November 28, 1867, for three years, deserted July 12, 1868, and never returned to his command.

At his own request he was, on August 23, 1893, furnished a deserter's release under General Orders, No. 55, Adjutant-General's Office, 1890; copy inclosed. This protects him from arrest and trial by court-martial, but does not remove the record of desertion. The Department has no power to remove the record of desertion.

J. B. BABCOCK,

Assistant Adjutant-General.